

**HOWARD COUNTY POLICE AND FIRE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN  
HOWARD COUNTY RETIREMENT PLAN**

**JOINT MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEES**

**April 25, 2019**

A joint meeting of the Retirement Plan Committees for the Howard County Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan (the "Police and Fire Plan") and the Howard County Retirement Plan (the "Employees Plan") (jointly, the "Plans") was held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Columbia/Ellicott City Room at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043.

**Police and Fire Plan:**

**Members Present:**

Human Resources Administrator: Wanda Hutchinson

Chief Administrative Officer: Lonnie Robbins

Director of Finance: Janet Irvin

Representative, Police Department Supervisory Employees:

Jason Luckenbaugh (arrived 9:20 a.m.)

Representative, Howard County Police Officers' Association, Lodge 21:

Craig Hoover

Representative, International Association of Firefighters, Local 2000:

Richard Ruehl

**Members Absent**

Budget Director: Holly Sun

Representative, Fire and Rescue Supervisory Employees:

Vincent Baker

**Employees Plan:**

**Members Present:**

Human Resources Administrator: Wanda Hutchinson

Chief Administrative Officer: Lonnie Robbins

Deputy Director of Finance: Angie Price

Budget Director Designee: Janssen Evelyn (arrived 9:25 a.m.)  
Employee Representative: Jeff Bronow  
Representative, American Federation of State, County and  
Municipal Employees Local 3080: Kim Drennon  
Representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal  
Employees Local 3085: Dale R. Chase

**Members Absent**

None

Also present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Lori Buchman, Department of Finance  
Margaret Belmondo, New England Pension Consultants (NEPC)  
William Forde, New England Pension Consultants (NEPC)  
Teresa M. Reider, Retirement Coordinator  
Paul W. Madden, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston L.L.P.  
Scott Southern, Assistant Retirement Coordinator  
Jamar Herry, Office of Law  
Ken Barnes, Pension Oversight Commission

Wanda Hutchinson acted as Chair of the meeting and Paul Madden acted as Secretary.

The minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved by the members of each Committee.

Will Forde of New England Pension Consultants presented the Monthly Performance Report for the Howard County Retirement Plans. The total assets as of March 31, 2019 is \$1.049 billion as compared with the assets as of December 31, 2017 of \$991 million. The total fund returned 0.7% for March and 6.5% for the first quarter. Fiscal year-to-date performance is 3.4%. Will noted that most asset classes had positive returns but emerging markets local credit was down. GQG had a very strong month.

Next, Margaret presented NEPC's asset allocation review. One of NEPC's key themes is that plan sponsors should brace for higher volatility in 2019. In terms of current opportunities, NEPC sees opportunities in private debt and absolute return fixed income. Accordingly, NEPC recommended that the Committees consider a 5% allocation to private debt and a 4% allocation to absolute return fixed income. NEPC proposed changes to the Investment Policy Statement to include targets for these

strategies. Margaret noted that the minimum allocation both private debt and absolute return is 0%. Accordingly, the Plans will not be out of compliance if, after being educated on asset classes, the Committee decides not to pursue one or both of the asset classes. Margaret indicated that after a change to the IPS is approved, NEPC will provide education on these asset classes and recommendations for investment managers.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved by the members of both Committees, it was resolved that the Committees adopt the recommendation of NEPC to amend the Investment Policy Statement to include a 5% target allocation to private debt and a 4% target allocation to total return fixed income.

At 10:10 a.m., a motion was made by Angie Price and seconded by Janssen Evelyn to close the meeting pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) to consider the investment of public funds and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular matter or proceeding. Wanda Hutchinson, Lonnie Robbins, Angie Price, Janssen Evelyn, Jeff Bronow, Dale Chase and Kim Drennon all voted in favor of the motion; there were no negative votes, abstentions or absences.

At 10:11 a.m. a motion was made by Richard Ruehl and seconded by Craig Hoover to close the meeting pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) to consider the investment of public funds and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular matter or proceeding. Wanda Hutchinson, Janet Irvin, Lonnie Robbins, Jason Luckenbaugh, Craig Hoover and Rich Ruehl all voted in favor of the motion. Holly Sun and Vincent Baker were absent; there were no negative votes or abstentions.

Terry Reider, Lori Buchman, Margaret Belmondo and Will Forde were present at the closed session at the invitation of the Committees. During the closed session, Commonfund and Partners Group, each of which has confidentiality agreements in its contracts with HCMT, made presentations. No action was taken during the closed sessions. At 11:40 a.m., the meeting reconvened to open session.

Wanda Hutchinson noted that the Robbins Geller contract for portfolio monitoring has been signed. The Committees still intend to issue a request for information for portfolio monitoring services. Wanda Hutchinson will work with Dale Chase to get the Risk Committee started.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paul Madden*

Paul W. Madden  
Secretary of the Meeting

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